

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/103 W

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R 171207Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9776

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1207

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IR

SUBJECT: EC ARRANGEMENT WITH IRAN

REF: A. STATE 242737

B. LONDON 15800

C. TEHRAN 9926

D. EC BRUSSELS 8804

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF SOAMES AND HANNAY IN STRASBOURG, WE CONVEYED TO FORTESCUE OF SOAMES' CABINET THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL A. THOUGH WE GOT NO INDICATION THAT FORTESCUE HAD HEARD OF THE DISCUSSIONS REPORTED IN REFTEL C, FORTESCUE MENTIONED THAT HE DID KNOW OF HEALEY'S STATEMENT IN LONDON (REFTEL B).

2. FORTESCUE SAID THAT SOAMES HAD HELD A MEETING WITH THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE END OF LAST WEEK. THE SUBJECT OF A PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT CAME UP BUT THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT PUSH IT HARD. FORTESCUE ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT THE IRANIAN

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FOREIGN MINISTER IS, HE BELIEVES, NOT DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE.

SOAMES REPEATED THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTIONS TO A PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT, BUT ACCORDING TO FORTESCUE THE MEETING IN FACT CHANGED NOTHING.

3. THE COMMISSION HAS NOW RECEIVED A POSITIVE IRANIAN ANSWER TO ITS AIDE MEMOIRE SUGGESTING FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE IRANIANS (REFTEL D). THEY WILL NOW WELCOME A VISIT FROM THE COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL CASPARI TO TEHRAN AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. FORTESCUE WAS ENCOURAGED THAT PROCEDURALLY THE MATTER IS NOW BACK ON THE TRACKS. THE COMMISSION HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION. IT NOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT CAN COME OUT OF FURTHER COMMISSION/IRANIAN DISCUSSIONS. FORTESCUE SAYS THAT THE SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT IMPROVED BY THE FACT THAT THE PREVIOUS SHAH PROPOSAL FOR A ROUND-TABLE MEETING WITH MINISTERS FROM THE NINE NOW SEEMS TO BE DEAD. GREENWALD

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